

MEETING MINUTES

Middleborough-Lakeville Herring Fishery Commission

Received
DEC 10 2020
Lakeville Town Clerk

11/10/20 Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM. Middleborough Town Hall, Middleborough, MA.

Wardens Present: Tom Barron, Ron Burgess, David Cavanaugh, Brad Day, Emily Ryan.

Absent: Bill Orphanos, Carol "Krill" Carson.

Observers Present:

Visitors: Patricia Cassidy (Middleborough Conservation Agent)

New Business:

1. Motion by Emily to accept the minutes of the October 6 meeting. Second: Brad. Voted 4-0 with one abstention.

2. Discussion of the DEP letter to the Middleborough Town Manager based on a citizen complaint about Oliver Mill. Trisha noted that Marine Fisheries was not notified or involved. Feeling was that the DEP letter was inaccurate re: findings and suggestion that the Commission restore river conditions we had nothing to do with creating. Tricia noted that the Conservation Commission was planning a response and suggestions of a possible joint response following the Conservation Commission meeting. She felt our Commission did nothing wrong and was not in violation. Dave presented a draft of a letter to the Town Manager in response to the DEP letter. Motion by Ron to send the draft letter to the Conservation Commission for use in a joint response. Second: Emily. Unanimous. Motion by Dave to participate in discussion of a joint response and send the response to the Town Manager with a copy to DEP. Second: Ron. Unanimous.

3. The Commission will attend the Conservation Commission November 19th meeting via Zoom and discuss Oliver Mill and the DEP letter. This meeting will be posted.

4. Continued discussion re: Lakeville wanting to know if we are requesting a \$5000 line item this year. An email string revealed that Lakeville notified us of a tentative Special Town Meeting in November. Since Middleborough gave us a \$5000 item unrequested, we previously voted to request the same from Lakeville. Lakeville then said there was not going to be a fall Town Meeting and to request it at their next annual meeting for this fiscal year. A news article revealed Lakeville was, in fact, having a fall town meeting. A Lakeville Selectmen notified Tom that our request would not be funded, since we didn't use any of the previous requested money (even though it was previously explained why). There was erroneous information on

the amount of money appropriated, which Tom is correcting. We will keep on the agenda for discussion of whether to request money for FY-22.

Old Business

1. a/c. The November 7 inspection at the Wareham Street ladder revealed that hand pulling of weeds is very slow. Mucky and rocky bottom make the weed rake slow, and inability to walk out very far into the channel. The channel between the ladder and river is very silty and weed choked. High water would help, but access is limited. Possibly working from our flat boat or the left hand side might allow some weed pulling.

b. Tom reported there are fry in the ponds, but they are unable to enter the river. The dam is shut and there is no water in the fish ladder due to lake levels being low. The lakes came up about two inches after the last rains, but are still bad.

2. a. The individual working with Bill Napolitano (SERPED) is Eliese Dykstra of the New England Field Office of USFW on the Endangered Species Program. When the existing plan is up to par for the USFW, it will be submitted on our behalf for federal approval, scheduled to be done well before the next target date for weed removal.

b. Outback proposed the next phase of the sediment trap project. They will estimate the volume of material for removal from the river. They provided a proposal. Motion by Ron to pay \$2500 from the \$35,000 state appropriation. Second: Dave. Unanimous.

c. Tom reported on the APC study group will break into several smaller working groups concerning conservation, water works and the river. He is involved in a river working group. Bill Napolitano is seeking info from Dr. Padgett and Mr. Fletcher who provided surveys for the weed project. Outback will look at the rail crossing bridge. The next APC group meeting will be January 2021.

3. Further discussion of a potential sign for Native American fishing revealed opinions that we should not fund a sign and that a sign would make it easier to answer why some can fish and some can't. It was noted that the Environmental Police posted a sign at the CapeCod Canal. Motion by Tom to ask the Environmental Police to provide orpost similar signs for Wareham Street and Oliver Mill. Second: Ron. Voted 4-1 in favor.

Communications and Bills

1. Financial rollups were presented.

Motion by Ron to adjourn. Second: Dave. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

